

San Francisco Department of Public Health  
AIDS Office

→ References

**RFP 7-2005**

**HIV Health Services – Centers of Excellence (CoE) for HIV-Infected African American Residents  
of the Bayview/Hunters Point Area**

**Statement of Purpose/Background.** This RFP seeks proposals to expand services to Persons Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWH/A) in the Bayview Hunters Point (BVHP) area of San Francisco through the provision of one or more Centers of Excellence (CoE). In recent years, advances in HIV/AIDS treatments, most notably the development of Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART), have given renewed hope to people living with HIV/AIDS; however, treating HIV/AIDS is not simply administering HAART. HIV/AIDS care must address a variety of health and social issues in order to ensure access to coordinated and high quality care, adherence to treatment, and effective health outcomes. The Centers of Excellence (CoE) concept is based, in part, on a publication developed by the Institute of Medicine entitled “Public Financing and Delivery of HIV/AIDS Care: Securing the Legacy of Ryan White (2004).” The CoE concept originates from the field of medicine and is used to describe programs specifically designed for chronic disease management, incorporating extensive provider expertise and a high quality of patient care.

Establishing an integrated approach to Federal Ryan White CARE-funded services in the BVHP is a goal for both the HIV Health Services Planning Council and the Department of Public Health HIV Health Services. This approach has primary care at the nexus of an array of services that are coordinated to deliver comprehensive care. In early 2004, HIV Health Services and the Planning Council formed the ISM/CoE Advisory Work Group to develop a set of written recommendations for the HIV Health Services Planning Council and SFDPH HIV Health Services (HHS) on issues related to the development of Centers of Excellence in various San Francisco communities. (Minutes and recommendations from these meetings can be viewed at the Planning Council's website located at: [http://www.sfcarecouncil.org/ISM%20Advisory%20Group/ISM\\_Advisory\\_Group.htm](http://www.sfcarecouncil.org/ISM%20Advisory%20Group/ISM_Advisory_Group.htm)). While the ISM/CoE Advisory Work Group found that previously funded Integrated Service Programs (ISP) had successfully met the needs of many severe need clients, certain services not included in the ISP were essential to clients. Most notably, mental health and substance use assessment, short-term counseling, and referral services need to be included in the array of “wrap around” services.

During the summer of 2004, the Planning Council allocated funding for FY 05-06 for Centers of Excellence. HHS intends to fund proposals that:

- Offer innovative and effective approaches to reaching BVHP residents with HIV or AIDS who are not in care, bringing them into care, maintaining them in treatment and adherent to medication regimens over time;
- Offer innovative and effective approaches to improving and measuring health outcomes and client quality of life;
- Offer seamless access to primary medical care and critical support services, maximizing coordination and communication among providers;
- Are accompanied by realistic and reasonable budgets;
- Will provide high quality, chronic care services to patients with HIV/AIDS in BVHP;
- Convey a culturally appropriate approach and proven competence in serving the proposed target population and effectively addressing HIV infection in a cultural context.

Proposals submitted in response to this RFP will be reviewed and the SFDPH will select proposals to fund based on recommendations from technical review panels (see pages 34 - 35 for more information on the review and selection process).

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

MAY 11 2005

## **Target Populations: Bayview Hunters Point Residents**

The HIV Health Services Planning Council set aside funding to establish CoE for HIV+/AIDS African American residents of the BVHP area as a special population. Individuals who are served from this special population must meet minimum Federal CARE eligibility requirements. All PLWH/A served by a CARE program must have low income, be San Francisco residents, and be medically uninsured or underinsured. Persons with zero to extremely low income receive priority in service allocation. Persons with very low income receive second priority and persons with low income receive third priority. Federal CARE funds may be used only for services that are not reimbursed by any other source of revenue.

In addition to the HIV/AIDS status and income requirements, responsive applications must design programs to serve one or more of the following groups:

- men who have sex with men (MSM) especially those who do not identify as being gay or bisexual or transgender;
- injection drug users (IDUs), as well as, abusers of alcohol and other substances both illicit & legal;
- persons multiply-diagnosed with mental health and substance abuse issues;
- men who are resistant to accessing medical services;
- persons who are not engaged in health care services;
- persons with criminal justice backgrounds;
- women with children;
- HIV+ & HIV affected families (with or without minor children), especially multi-generational families;
- youth.

## **Funds Available**

The Planning Council has allocated \$1.7 million for clients in the Bayview/Hunter's Point area of San Francisco. A portion of the \$1.7 million will be reserved by HHS for evaluation and technical assistance purposes. Of the \$1.7 million, up to \$433,278, may be Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) funding from CARE Title I.

ACTIVITY	TIMES	DATES
Publication of RFP		May 11, 2005
Bidders' Conference	1:00 – 3:30 P.M.	May 24, 2005
<b>Letter of Intent Due (Mandatory)*</b>	<b>By 12:00 Noon</b>	<b>June 8, 2005</b>
Proposals Due	by 12:00 Noon	July 13, 2005
Technical Review		Estimated July/August
Final selection		Estimated August/September

*\*Proposals will be accepted only from organizations that have submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) by the due date.*

For questions please contact Karen Smith, SFDPH AIDS Office Contracts Unit, at (415) 554-9057.

**To download a complete copy of the application please point your browser to the RFP page of the Department of Public Health  
at: [www.dph.sf.ca.us/contracts](http://www.dph.sf.ca.us/contracts)**



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